

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 282237Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4916
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

S E C R E T LIMA 3472

EXDIS

FOR USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, PE
SUBJECT: LOS: APPROACH TO DEEP SEABED NEGOTIATIONS ISSUE

REFS: LIMA 3395, GENEVA 2702, BRASILIA 3122

1. AMBASSADOR BELAUNDE INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER APRIL 28 THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ASKED THE PERUVIAN LOS DELEGATION TO CONTACT THE U.S. LOS DELEGATION TO DISCUSS THE SEABEDS ISSUE. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT WHILE THE U.S. POSITION PRESENTS A GOOD BASIS FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS HE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT ANY FORMAL DECISION WILL BE MADE ON THIS ISSUE PRIOR TO THE TERMINATION OF THE CONFERENCE ON MAY 10.

2. HE SAID THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS FOR THE FACT THAT PERU CANNOT ACCEDE TO U.S. POSITION IN ALL ITS ASPECTS SO THAT A FINAL ACCORD CAN BE REACHED. (A) FIRST, THE PERUVIANS BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. POSITION WAS PRESENTED TOO LATE TO ALLOW FOR EFFECTIVE RESOLUTION OF THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE DIVERSE POSITIONS WHICH THE GROUP OF 77 HAS ON THE ISSUE; (B) SECOND, DESOTO HIMSELF SOMEWHAT "COMPROMISED" (SIC) IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE SOFT- AND HARD-LINERS WITHIN THE GROUP OF 77, ON THE OTHER.

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(BELAUNDE IMPLIED THAT DESOTO WOULD LOSE FACE SHOULD BE

ACCEDE TO THE U.S. POSITION AT THE LAST MINUTE.);
(C) THE U.S. POSITION WAS FLOATED "AS A TRIAL BALLOON TO TEST THE WATERS" WITHOUT DIRECT CONSULTATION WITH THE EC AND JAPAN. BELAUNDE NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT THE PERUVIANS WERE TOLD BY THE U.S. DELEGATION THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS BEING PRESENTED TO THEM FIRST, BEFORE BEING DISCUSSED IN DEPTH WITH THE EC AND JAPAN. BELAUNDE PROFESSED SOME DOUBT ON THIS POINT BUT DID SAY THIS IS WHAT HIS PEOPLE IN GENEVA HAD REPORTED; (D) FINALLY, BELAUNDE SAID THERE ARE VARIOUS TECHNICAL POINTS WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER DEFINITION, INCLUDING, INTER ALIA, THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AS EXPLORATION CONTRACTORS IN THE DEEP SEABED AND THE FACT THAT SUCH INSTITUTIONS WOULD NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE TECHNICAL DATA OF PRIVATE COMPANIES WHICH HAVE BEEN AWARDED EXPLORATION RIGHTS.

3. OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.-PERUVIAN RELATIONSHIP ON THIS ISSUE, BELAUNDE ALSO SAID THAT THE SOVIET POSITION TO LIMIT THE GENERAL POWERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEEP SEABED AUTHORITY ALSO POSES PROBLEMS WHICH CANNOT BE RESOLVED IN THE SHORT TERM. HE NOTED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT BOTH PERU AND THE U.S. OPPOSE THE SOVIET POSITION.

4. COMMENT: BELAUNDE WAS MORE HOPEFUL LAST WEEK, BUT NOW CLEARLY SEES THAT THE GOP DOES NOT WISH TO MAKE NECESSARY CONCESSIONS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON SEABEDS ISSUE AT THIS SESSION. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING, GIVEN THE GENERAL THIRD WORLD ORIENTATION OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS EMPLOYED BY THE PERUVIAN DELEGATION TO DATE.
DEAN

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